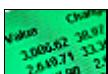


## 1345.4 - SA Stats, Aug 2007

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 28/08/2007

## Summary

### Overview



#### In this issue of SA Stats

**28/08/2007** | This issue of SA Stats focuses on children's participation in cultural and leisure activities in South Australia in 2005-06.



#### Demography

Includes: **Estimated Resident Population**

**03/07/2007** | The estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,575,700 at 31 December 2006, an increase of 16,100 persons (0.9%) since 31 December 2005.



#### State Accounts

Includes: **State Final Demand, Household Final Consumption Expenditure**

**03/07/2007** | South Australia's March 2007 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$16,893m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$249,793m.



#### Consumption

Includes: **Retail Turnover, New Motor Vehicle Sales**

**03/07/2007** | The March 2007 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,361.1m, compared with the Australian total of \$18,929.1m.



#### Investment

Includes: **Private New Capital Expenditure, Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Expenditure**

**03/07/2007** | Between the September 2006 and the December 2006 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure increased by 1.1% to \$1,171m.



#### Production

Includes: **Building Approvals**

**03/07/2007** | In March 2007, the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved in South Australia was 893. Nationally, the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved was 12,162.



#### Prices

Includes: **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

**03/07/2007** | The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 1.8% in the 12 months to March 2007, compared with a 2.4% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities.



#### Labour Force

Includes: **Job Vacancies, Employed persons, Unemployment, Participation rate**

**03/07/2007** | In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies increased to about 10,200 in May 2007 from 9,900 in February 2007. The May 2007 vacancies were 6% lower than in May 2006.



#### Incomes

Includes: **Average Weekly Earnings**

**03/07/2007** | The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia has increased by 2.6% in the 12 months to February 2007 reaching \$999.50.



## International Merchandise Trade

Includes: **Exports and Imports**

**03/07/2007** | The value of South Australian merchandise exports (in original terms) was \$740m in March 2007 up 33.6% from \$554m in January 2007. The value of merchandise imports decreased to \$576m in March 2007 from \$597m in February 2007.



## Housing Finance

Includes: **Housing Finance Commitments**

**03/07/2007** | The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia has risen by 9.7% to \$926m in the 12 months to March 2007.



## Environment

Includes: **Use of Transport**

**03/07/2007** | Four in five SA cars carry only one passenger.

# In this Issue



## IN THIS ISSUE

This month's article focuses on children's participation in culture and leisure activities in South Australia in 2005-06. The data was collected from the 2006 Survey of Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities that was conducted as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Population Survey (MPS).

Key points from this article: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities – South Australia, 2006.

- More children in South Australia were involved in organised sports outside school hours than organised cultural activities.
- Outside school hours, watching TV, videos, and DVDs was the most popular leisure activity of South Australian children.
- 65% of children accessed the Internet outside school hours in South Australia.
- More girls than boys in South Australia reported non participation in organised cultural and leisure activities outside school hours.

In the article, **Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities - South Australia** data have been rounded. Other Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications referenced in the feature article.

If you have any comments about this product please contact Lisa Moutzouris on ph: (08) 8237 7455 or alternatively e-mail [sa.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:sa.statistics@abs.gov.au).

# Articles

## **Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities – South Australia**

This article focuses on children's participation in culture and leisure activities in South Australia based on data from the 2006 Monthly Population Survey (MPS).

### **Index of Articles published in SA Stats**

Provides a historical listing of articles that have been released as part of this product

## **Demography**



### **DEMOGRAPHY**

#### **ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION**

The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,575,700 at 31 December 2006, an increase of 16,100 persons (1.0%) since 31 December 2005. The annual population growth for the year ended 31 December 2005 was 0.9%. The total ERP was rebased on data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing as of June 2006 and as such would be different from the total of population derived from the table components.

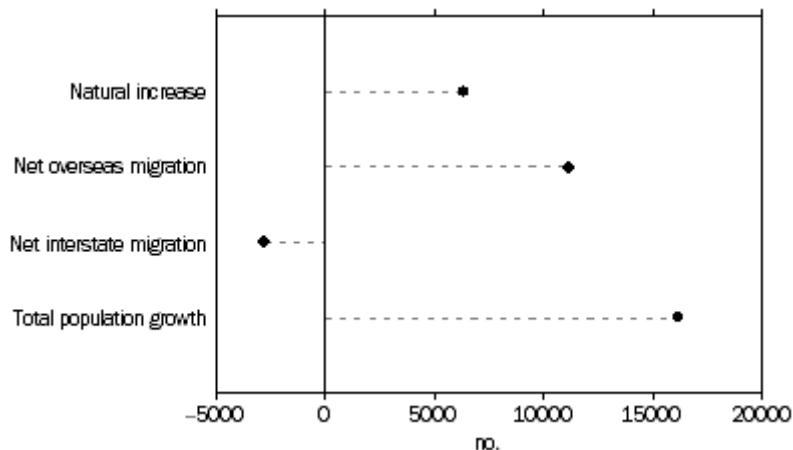
All states and territories recorded population growth over the 12 months ended 31 December 2006. Western Australia recorded the largest growth rate (2.1%) and Tasmania recorded the lowest growth rate (0.6%).

For the 12 months ending 31 December 2006, South Australia recorded a natural increase (i.e. net of births and deaths) of 6,332 persons. Net overseas migration provided a gain of 11,150 persons in the same period while net interstate migration realised a loss of 2,765 persons.

In the December 2006 quarter South Australia recorded a net natural increase of 1,514 persons and a gain in net overseas migration of 2,810 persons. For every quarter since September 1986, with the exception of June 1993 (-217 persons) and June 1994 (-5), there has been a net overseas migration gain in South Australia's ERP. Net interstate migration in the December 2006 quarter resulted in a loss of 1,100 persons from South Australia. Since September 1986, South Australia has only shown a net increase in population from interstate migration in 11 out of the 80 quarters, and 9 of these quarters occurred before March 1992.

Nationally, the preliminary ERP was 20,852,000 at 31 December 2006, an increase of 293,000 persons (1.4%) since 31 December 2005. The population growth rate for the year ended 31 December 2006 (1.4%) was about the same as that recorded for the year ended 31 December 2005 (1.4%). For the year ended 31 December 2006, Australia recorded a natural increase in population of 132,051 persons; net overseas migration resulted in a gain of 147,723 people.

In the December 2006 quarter Australia's population recorded a natural increase of 34,694 persons. The net overseas migration for Australia resulted in a gain of 38,468 persons.



Source: [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0)

## State Accounts



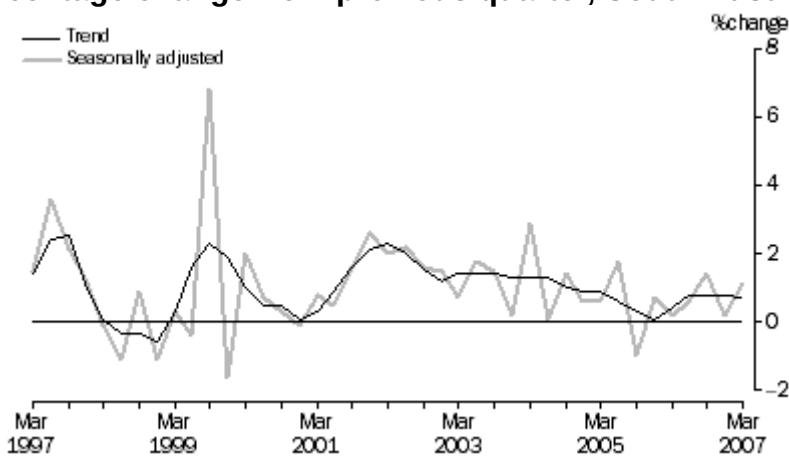
### STATE ACCOUNTS

South Australia's March 2007 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$16,893m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$249,793m.

The 0.7% increase in South Australia's State Final Demand recorded for the March 2007 quarter was less than the increase in the national Domestic Final Demand (1.1%). Of the other states and territories the strongest growth for the quarter was reported in Western Australia (up 2.3%). State Final Demand for the quarter fell in the Northern Territory by 0.1%.

In the March 1997 quarter South Australia's State Final Demand of \$11,323m comprised 7.0% of Australian Domestic Final Demand (\$161,178m); compared to 6.8% by the end of the March 2007 quarter. The proportional contribution to the Australian Domestic Final Demand of New South Wales and Tasmania also decreased over this time period while that of the other states and territories increased.

### STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter, South Australia



Source: [Australian National Accounts](#) (cat. no. 5206.0)

## HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (HFCE)

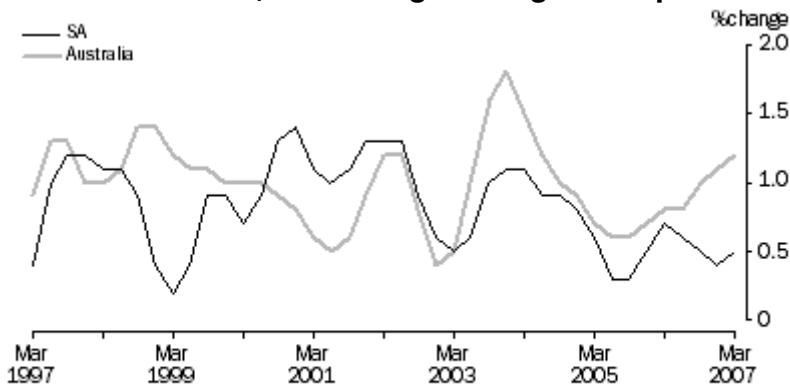
In chain volume (trend) terms, South Australia's March 2007 quarter HFCE was \$9,833m (7.0% of the national total of \$139,691m). This represented a 0.5% increase from the December 2006 quarter for South Australia and a 1.2% increase for Australia.

For the March 2007 quarter relative to the December 2006 quarter, Furnishings and household equipment (up 2.9%) recorded the greatest increase in expenditure for South Australia, followed by Purchase of vehicles (up 2.3%). For the same period, the greatest increases for Australia were in Purchase of vehicles (up 3.6%) and Furnishings and household equipment (up 2.0%). The March 2007 expenditure on Hotels, cafes and restaurants recorded the greatest decrease for South Australia (down 1.8%). No decreases were observed for Australia in this time.

Comparing the March 2007 quarter and the March 2006 quarter, HFCE increased by 2.1% for South Australia and 4.2% for Australia.

The expenditure components which showed the largest increases for South Australia when comparing the March 2007 and March 2006 quarters were: Furnishings and household equipment (up 11.9% to \$573m); and Operation of vehicles (up 5.7% to \$608m). The expenditure components which showed the largest increase for Australia when comparing the March 2007 and March 2006 quarters were: Furnishings and household equipment (up 8.8% to \$8,299m); Purchase of vehicles (up 6.8% to \$5,516m) and Transport services (up 6.7% to \$3,355m). Cigarettes and tobacco was the expenditure component which showed the largest decrease for both South Australia (a 3.3% decrease to \$178m) and Australia (a 2.4% decrease to \$2,324m).

**HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE(a), Trend, Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter**



(a) Revisions have been made to some aggregates. See Australian National Accounts (cat. no. 5206.0)

Source: [Australian National Accounts](#) (cat. no. 5206.0)

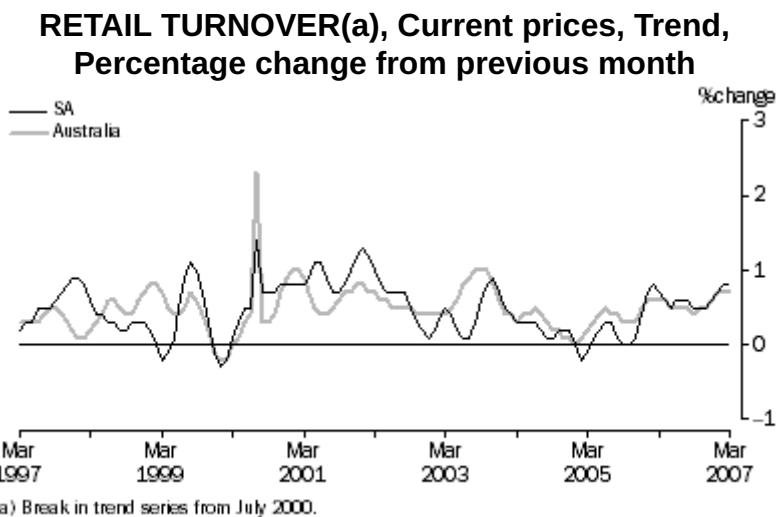
## Consumption



**CONSUMPTION**

**RETAIL TURNOVER**

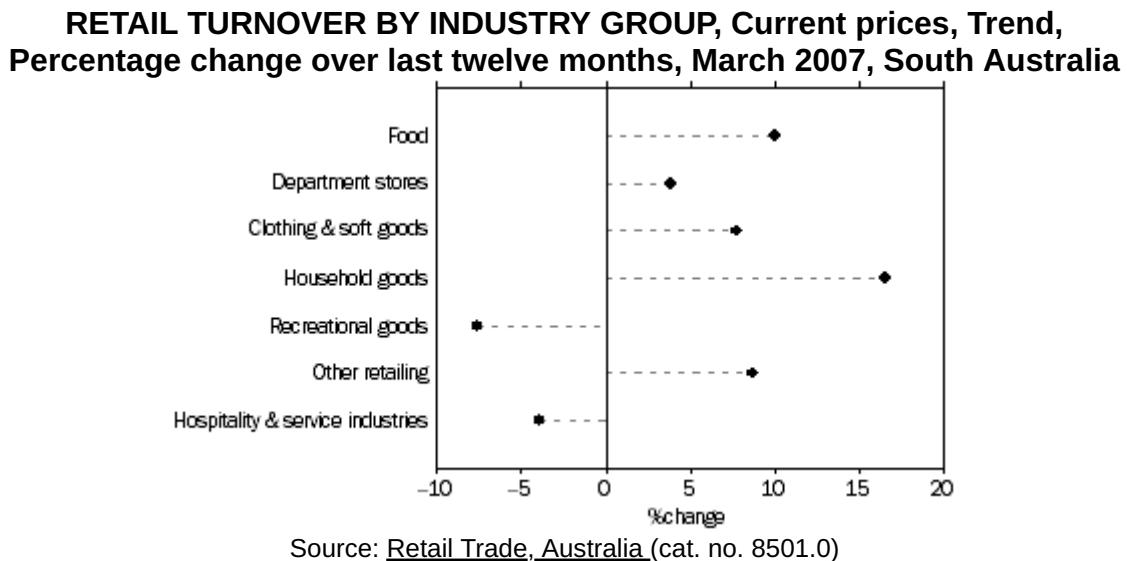
The March 2007 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,361.1m, compared with the Australian total of \$18,929.1m. This represents a 0.8% increase in turnover across all retail industries for South Australia and a 0.7% increase nationally from the previous month.



Source: [Retail Trade, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8501.0)

Comparing March 2007 with March 2006, retail turnover (trend) increased by 7.5% for South Australia and 6.9% for Australia.

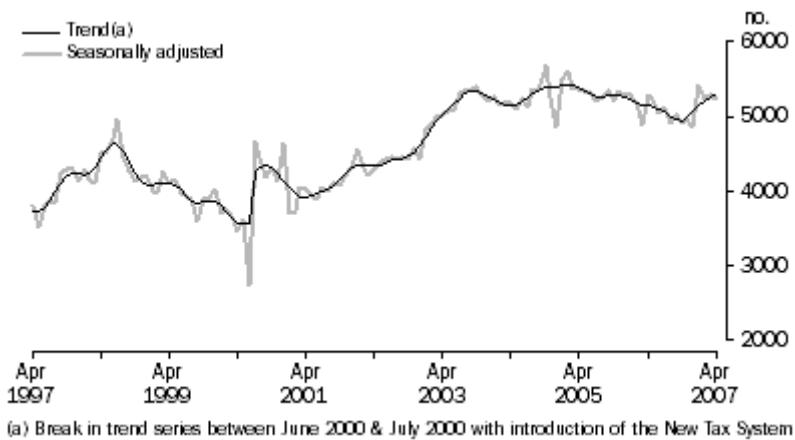
Over the same period, the two South Australian industry groups with the largest percentage increases in retail turnover (trend) were Household goods, rising by 16.6% (to \$194.9m), and Food, rising by 10.0% (to \$604.4m). The South Australian industry group which reported the largest decrease in retail turnover (trend) was Recreational goods retailing, down by 7.6% to \$37.8m.



## NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

In April 2007, 3,303 new passenger vehicles and 5,310 new vehicles in total (in trend terms) were sold in South Australia. Corresponding sales for Australia were 53,645 and 87,241

## NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, South Australia



(a) Break in trend series between June 2000 & July 2000 with introduction of the New Tax System

Source: [Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Electronic Delivery, Feb. 2007](#) (cat. no. 9314.0.55.001)

## Investment



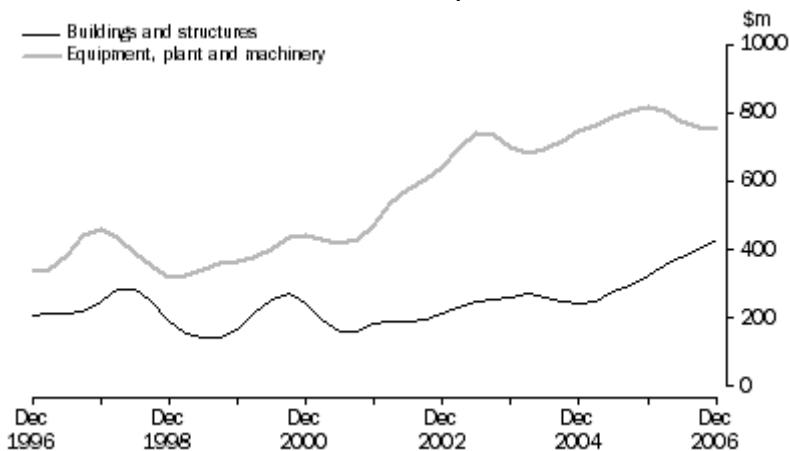
### INVESTMENT

#### PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Between the September 2006 and the December 2006 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure increased by 1.1% to \$1,171m. Expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 1% to \$751m, while expenditure on buildings and structures increased by 7.0% to \$430m. For the same period, private new capital expenditure for Australia decreased by 0.3% to \$18,166m.

Comparing the December 2006 quarter with the December 2005 quarter, South Australia's total private new capital expenditure increased by 2.8%. Expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery fell by 8.0%; expenditure on buildings and structures grew by 33.5%. Nationally, total private new capital expenditure increased by 1.8% for this twelve month period.

#### PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Trend, Chain volume measures, South Australia



Source: [Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5625.0)

## MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

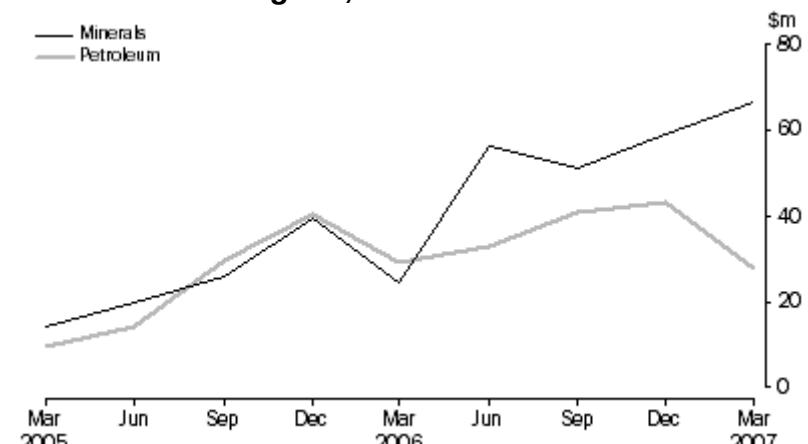
Since the March quarter 2005, when continuous data on mineral exploration by mineral type in South Australia became available, South Australian expenditure (in original terms) on non-petroleum mineral exploration more than quadrupled, from \$14.0m to \$66.5m in the March 2007 quarter. Over the same period, Australian expenditure on non-petroleum mineral exploration increased by about 64% from \$225.8m to \$369.3m.

The South Australian increase is reflected in both exploration of new deposits (up from \$2.6m to \$15.2m), and exploration of existing deposits (\$11.4m to \$51.3m).

The main mineral types attracting the growth in South Australian mineral exploration were base metals (increasing from \$7.6m to \$37.8m), copper (from \$6.9m to \$27.3m) and Uranium (from \$2.5m to \$12.2m).

Petroleum exploration expenditure data for South Australia were only available on a continuous basis from the March 2005 quarter. The March 2007 quarter South Australian expenditure on petroleum exploration in South Australia (\$28.1m) was almost treble that of the March quarter 2005 (\$9.8m). Nationally, expenditure on petroleum exploration increased from \$269.2m in the March quarter 2005 to \$460.3m in the March 2007 quarter (a 71.0% increase). Expenditure on petroleum exploration showed a peak in the December 2006 quarter for both South Australia (\$43.4m) and Australia (\$544.5m).

### MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Original, South Australia



Source: [Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8412.0)

## Production



### PRODUCTION

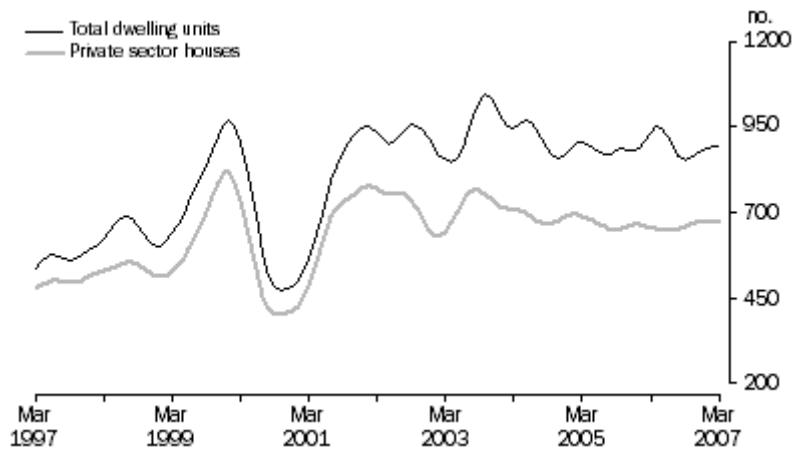
### BUILDING APPROVALS

In March 2007, the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved in South Australia was 893. This continues the steady recovery from September 2006 when approvals were at the lowest level (849) since March 2006. Nationally, the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved was 12,162. This was the lowest number of approvals since September 2000 (9,270 approvals), and continues the downward trend from

the peak in July 2006 (13,104 approvals).

The trend estimate for South Australian private sector house approvals rose for each of the last eight months to January 2007 (673 approvals) but fell very slightly (to 671) in March 2007.

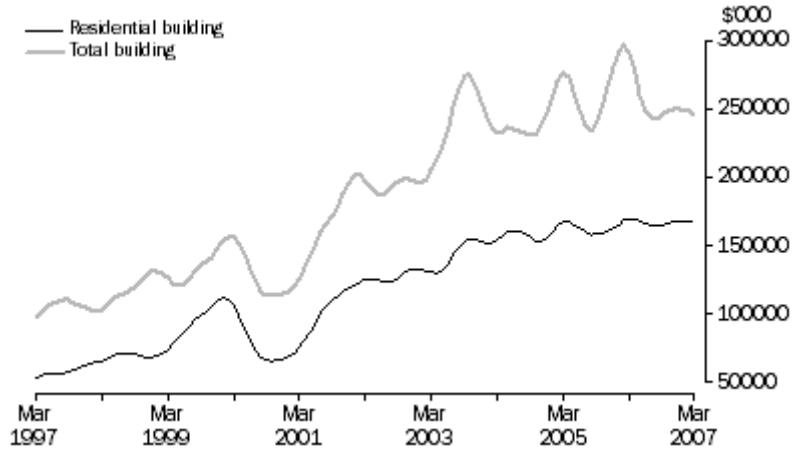
### DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: [Building Approvals, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8731.0)

In March 2007, the total value (in trend terms) of building approvals was \$245.1m for South Australia and \$5,550.2m for Australia.

### VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: [Building Approvals, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8731.0)

## Prices



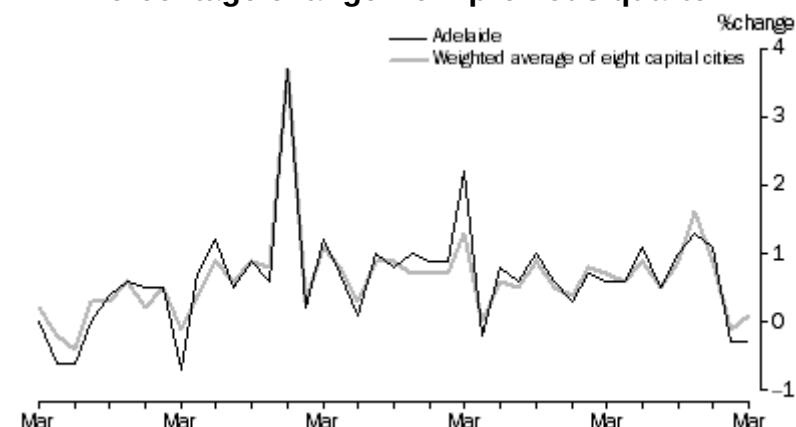
### PRICES

#### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 1.8% in the 12 months to March 2007, compared with a 2.4% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities. Adelaide's CPI fell by 0.3% in the March 2007, for the same period, the weighted average of

eight capital cities rose by 0.1%.

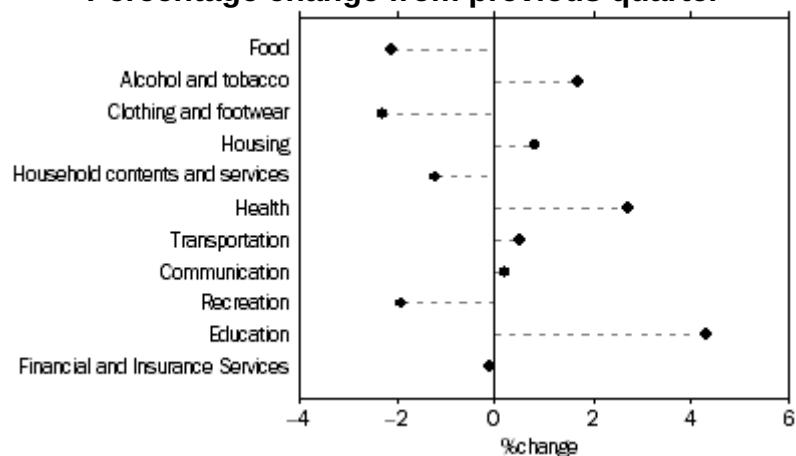
### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS, Original, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Consumer Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6401.0)

In the March 2007 quarter, the categories with the largest percentage decreases (contributing to the overall CPI movement for Adelaide) were Clothing and Footwear (2.3%); and Food (2.1%). The largest percentage increase occurred with Education (4.3%) with the commencement of the new school year.

### CPI MOVEMENT, ADELAIDE, Original - MARCH 2007 QUARTER, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Consumer Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6401.0)

## Labour Force

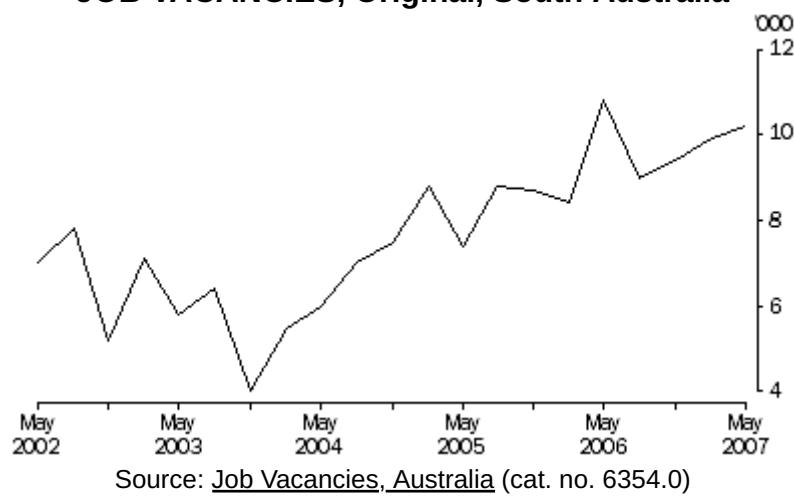


### LABOUR FORCE

### JOB VACANCIES

In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies increased to about 10,200 in May 2007 from 9,900 in February 2007. The May 2007 vacancies were 6% lower than in May 2006.

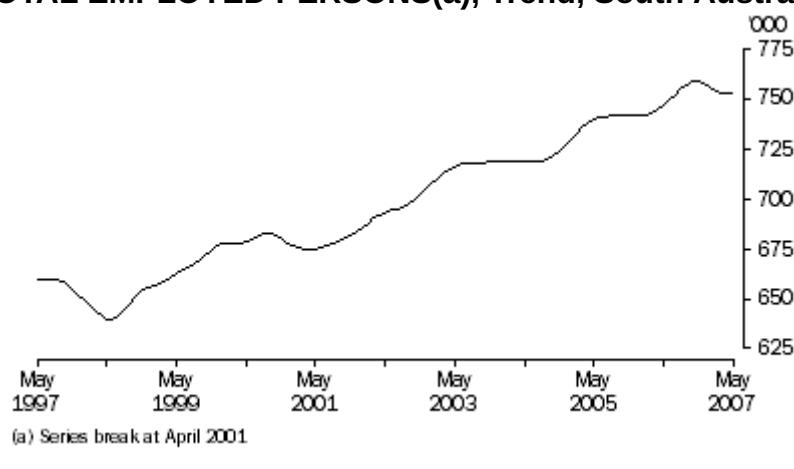
## JOB VACANCIES, Original, South Australia



## EMPLOYED PERSONS

In trend terms, total employment in South Australia fell by 0.8% from a record high of about 759,200 persons in November 2006 to 752,900 persons in May 2007. Total employment in Australia however recorded a series high of about 10,432,400 persons in May 2007.

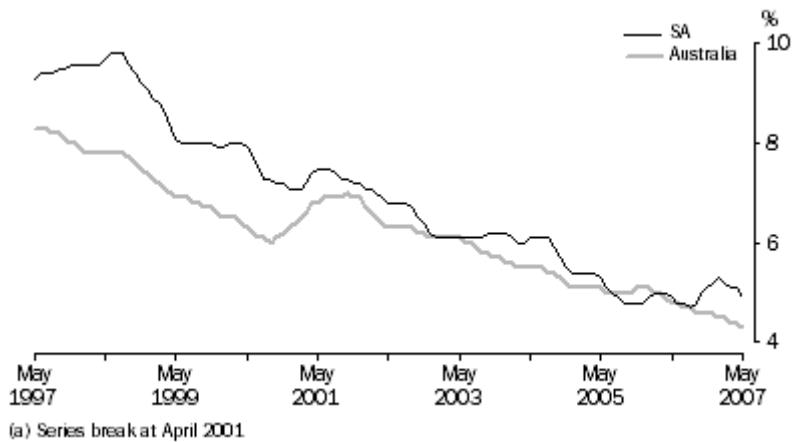
## TOTAL EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), Trend, South Australia



## UNEMPLOYMENT

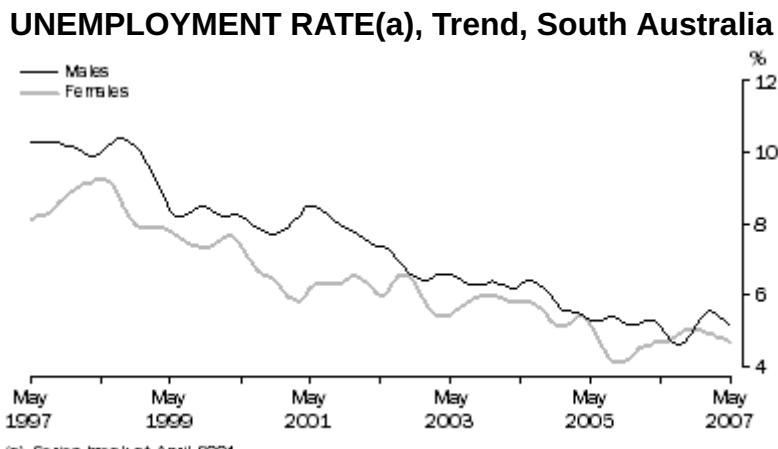
The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for South Australia fell to 4.9% in May 2007 after reaching a peak of 5.3% in January 2007. Australia's unemployment rate fell to 4.3% in May 2007 (from 4.5% in January 2007).

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia and Australia



Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend unemployment rate for females fell to 4.7% in May 2007 after being steady at 5.0% for the four months September to December 2006. For males the unemployment rate fell to 5.1% in May 2007, after reaching a peak of 5.6% in January 2007.

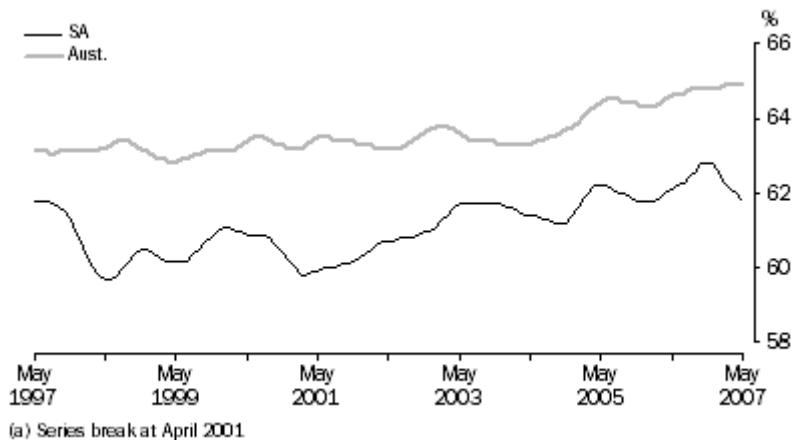


Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

## PARTICIPATION RATE

The trend estimate of the participation rate for South Australia in May 2007 was 61.8%, down from 62.6% in January 2007. In the ten year period from May 1997, the lowest estimate was 59.7% in May and June of 1998. Australia's trend participation rate remained steady at 64.9% for the four months to May 2007. The lowest participation rate reported for Australia was 62.8% in April and May of 1999 for the ten year period from May 1997.

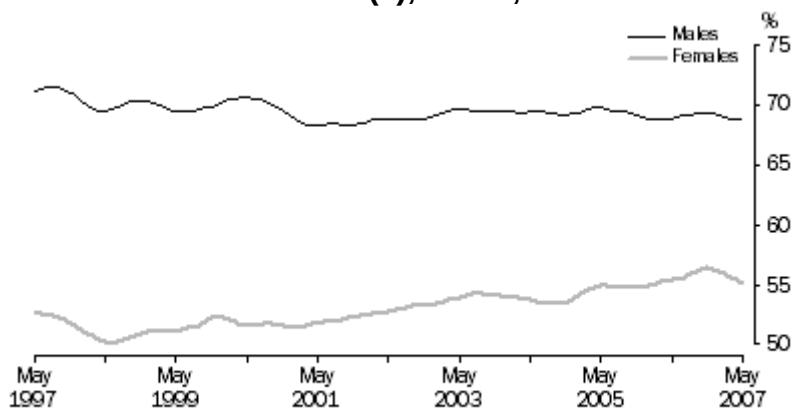
## PARTICIPATION RATE(a), Trend, South Australia and Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend participation rate for females has remained above 55.0% since February 2006. The high point was 56.5% in November 2006, falling slightly to 56.2% in January 2007, and 55.1% in May 2007. Nationally the female participation rate has remained at 57.7% since January 2007. After a high of 69.4% in November 2006, the participation rate for South Australian males has steadily dropped to 68.8% in May 2007. The Australian participation rate for males has been consistently higher than that for South Australia since May 1997, and was 72.3% in May 2007.

### PARTICIPATION RATE(a), Trend, South Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

## Incomes

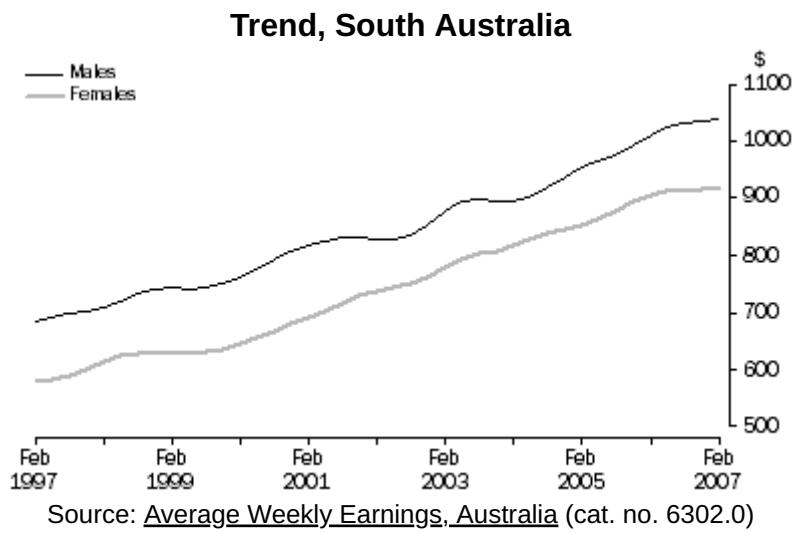


### INCOMES

#### AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 2.6% to \$999.50 in the 12 months to February 2007. Nationally, the corresponding increase was greater, 3.4% (up to \$1,070.40).

#### AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FULL-TIME ADULT ORDINARY,



For South Australia, the trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time, full-time adult) earnings rose by 2.7% for males and 1.0% for females over the 12 months to February 2007.

The February 2007 female average weekly earnings (\$916.50) in South Australia were 88.4% of the corresponding male average weekly earnings (\$1,037.30), compared with 89.9% observed a year earlier (February 2006). Nationally, the February 2007 female average weekly earnings (\$953.90) were 83.9% of the male earnings (\$1,136.60).

## International Merchandise Trade



### INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

#### EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

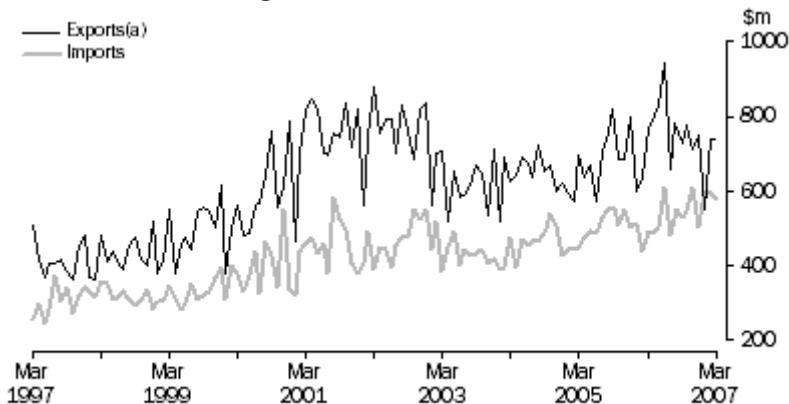
South Australia's value of exports (in original terms) increased by 33.6% between January 2007 (\$554m) and March 2007 (\$740m). In March 2006 the state's value of exports was \$770m. The highest increases in value of exports were reported for Wine exports (up \$55m, or 50%) and Road vehicles, parts and accessories (up \$43m or 360%) from January 2007. Declines in value were reported for the exports of Wheat (down by 24%) and Fish and crustaceans (down by 27%).

Australian exports also rose (by 10.4%) over the January to March 2007 period. The main industries that contributed to the increase in the value of Australian exports were Machinery and equipment manufacturing (up \$576m, 66.7%), of which exports of passenger vehicles rose to \$225m from \$83m; Food, beverage and tobacco manufacturing up \$419m, 36.1%; Agriculture, \$166m, 33.5%. Counteracting the increased exports for these industries were decreases in exports for Coal mining, down by 7.6% (\$152m); Metal ore mining, down by 6.4% (\$126m); and Oil and gas extraction, 6.4%, \$70m.

The value of South Australian merchandise imports decreased to \$576m in March 2007 from \$597m in February 2007 and \$600m in January 2007. In March 2006 the state's merchandise imports amounted to \$496m.

Other than for January 2007, the value of exports from South Australia exceeded the value of imports for all periods from July 1996 to March 2007. Nationally, for the same period, in most months, the value of imports has exceeded the value of exports.

### VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, Original, South Australia



(a) State in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs.

Source: [International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5368.0)

## Housing Finance

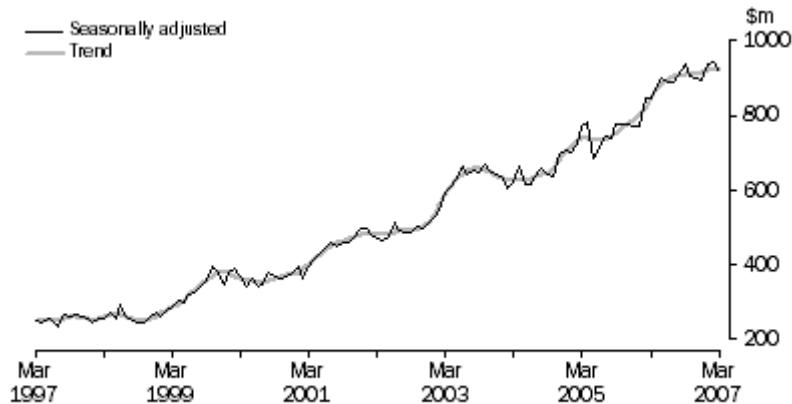


### HOUSING FINANCE

#### HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia has risen by 9.7% to \$926m in the 12 months to March 2007. Nationally, for the same period, the increase was smaller at 8.3% (to a total of \$14,399m).

### HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), South Australia



Note: Excludes alterations & additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: [Housing Finance, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5609.0)

Since March 1997, the average home loan commitment for owner occupied dwellings in

South Australia has more than doubled from \$80,800 to \$174,900 in March 2007. The gap between the average loan size for first home buyers and non-first home buyers has gradually widened over the seven months from September 2006 to March 2007. In March 2007 the average loan size for first home buyers was \$185,500, which was 7.2% greater than the average loan size of \$173,000 for non-first home buyers; in September 2006, the average loan size for first home buyers was \$182,600, or 2.4% greater than for non-first home buyers.

### HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), Original, Average Loan Size by Type of Buyer, South Australia



Note: Excludes alterations & additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: [Housing Finance, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5609.0)

## Environment



### ENVIRONMENT - USE OF TRANSPORT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The effects of greenhouse gas emissions on the environment appear to be of growing concern as evidenced by the frequency of discussion in the general press. In Australia, the transport sector is the third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions and is one of the sectors contributing to emissions growth in this country. In 2004, transport contributed 14% (76.2 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) of Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport accountable for 89% of this (68.1 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). Passenger cars alone were estimated to be responsible for contributing 61% of all emissions from road transport (41.7 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) (DEH 2006).

#### MAIN FORM OF TRANSPORT USED ON USUAL TRIP TO WORK OR STUDY

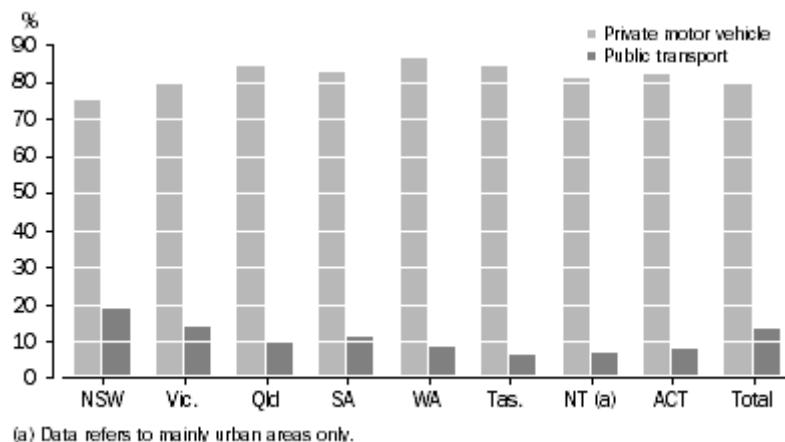
According to Australian Bureau of Statistics data published in [Environmental issues: People's views and practices, March 2006](#) (cat. no. 4602.0), the majority (83% or 549,000) of South Australians aged 18 years or over who worked or studied used private motor vehicles (as driver or passenger) as the main form of transport to their place of work or study. This was higher than the proportion for Australia (80%) but lower than the proportions for Western Australia (87%), Tasmania (84%) and Queensland (84%). The lowest proportion was reported for New South Wales (75%).

In 2006, only 11% of South Australians aged 18 years and over who were working or studying used public transport as their main way to get to work or study, compared with 14%

Australia-wide. New South Wales had the highest proportion of people who used public transport for this purpose (19%), followed by Victoria (14%).

Between 1996 and 2006, the proportion of South Australians who used private motor vehicles as their main form of transport to work or study has remained the same, with the proportion who used public transport increasing slightly from 10% to 11% over this period.

### MAIN FORM OF TRANSPORT USED ON USUAL TRIP TO WORK OR STUDY — March 2006



Source: [Environmental issues: People's views and practices, March 2006 \(cat. no. 4602.0\)](#)

In 2006, 75% of South Australians aged 18 years and over drove a passenger car as their main form of transport to work or study, more than that for Australia (72%). This was second highest after Western Australia (79%).

Car pooling was not overly prevalent. Only 4% of South Australians aged 18 years and over reported being a passenger in a car on a usual trip to work or study, behind the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and Tasmania (all 6%).

In 2006, of those South Australians who drove a motor vehicle to work or study on a usual basis, 80% reported they did not take a passenger on a usual trip to or from work or study. This meant that on average, on a usual commuting day, four vehicles in five transported only one person. While this state level seem large, it was similar to the levels reported for Victoria (86%), Western Australia (82%) and New South Wales (81%).

### USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

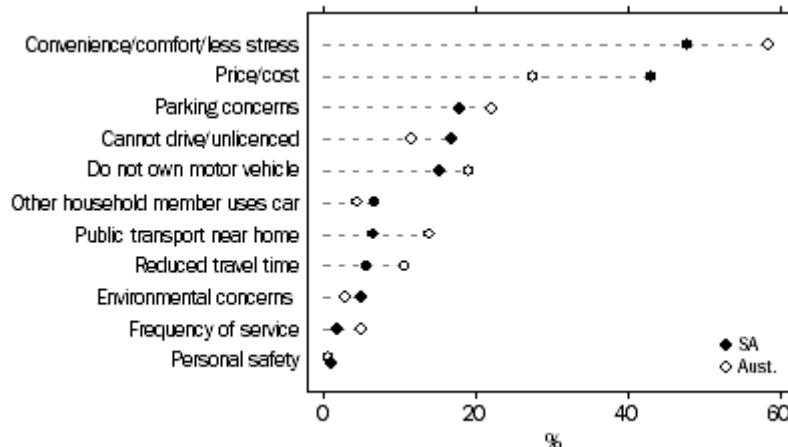
In 2006, 11% of South Australians aged 18 years and over who worked or studied used public transport as their main form of transport. Since 1996, the proportion who used public transport as their main form of transport has increased by 1%.

Of those South Australians who used public transport as their main form of transport to work or study, nearly half (48%) said they used public transport because they found it convenient, comfortable and less stressful than other forms of transport, while 43% used it because of cost. South Australians were much more likely to use public transport for cost reasons compared to the rest of the country (28%).

Concern for the environment was not a major factor for choosing to use public transport.

Only 5% of South Australians who used public transport to get to work or study cited this as a reason they used it, although this was nearly twice the proportion who cited this as a reason nation-wide (3%).

## REASONS FOR USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT ON USUAL TRIP TO WORK OR STUDY — March 2006

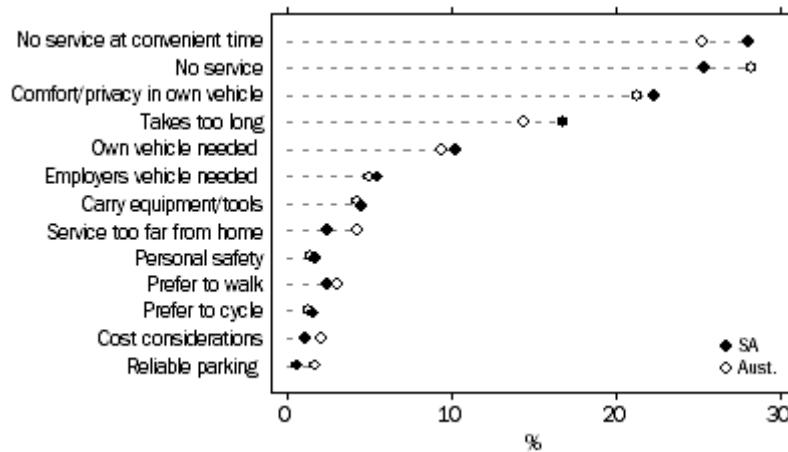


Source: [Environmental issues: People's views and practices, March 2006 \(cat. no. 4602.0\)](#)

Of those South Australians aged 18 years and over who worked or studied and did not use public transport for their regular commute to work or study, the main reasons given for not using public transport were the lack of a service either at a convenient time (28%) or no service at all (25%). While this was similar nationally, the lack of services at a convenient time was an issue for more in South Australia (28%) than nationally (25%).

Nearly one quarter (22%) of South Australians in this reference population preferred the comfort or privacy in their own vehicle.

## REASONS FOR NOT TAKING PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO WORK OR STUDY — March 2006



Source: [Environmental issues: People's views and practices, March 2006 \(cat. no. 4602.0\)](#)

## About this Release

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian economy. The overview will be updated on a quarterly basis (in March, June, September and December) and in the

intervening months the publication will include feature articles that provide a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications (links to source documents are provided in the summary table).

Replaces: 1307.4

## **Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities - South Australia, 2006 (Feature Article)**

### **CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES - SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 2006**

Numerous elements influence the physical and social development of children. The involvement of children in cultural or leisure activities can contribute to their well-being by providing experiences for learning, socialising as well as improving fitness and coordination.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a Survey of Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities in April 2006. The survey collected information on the involvement of children aged 5 to 14 years in sporting, cultural and leisure activities outside school hours. Information was also collected on the participation and non-participation of children in a range of selected organised cultural and sporting activities in the 12 months prior to interview, with other leisure activities referenced to the most recent two school weeks before the interview. Data are also available for 2000 and 2003.

Key characteristics of South Australian children who participated in cultural, sporting and leisure activities outside school hours were:

- More South Australian children were involved in organised sports than organised cultural activities.
- Watching TV, videos, DVDs was the most popular leisure activity of South Australian children.
- Of the 182,600 South Australian children who accessed information technology, 65% accessed the Internet.
- A higher percentage of girls than boys in South Australia reported non participation in organised cultural and leisure activities.

The article will also compare South Australia's level of participation, attendance and involvement in selected culture, sport and leisure activities with Australian figures as well as with other states and territories. Comparisons are also made between 2000 and 2006.

### **CHANGES IN PARTICIPATION SINCE 2000**

The ABS conducted surveys on children's participation in culture and leisure activities every three years since 2000. A comparison of data over the six year period show a change in participation in organised sport (from 62% in 2000 to 64% in 2006). There was an increased involvement of South Australian boys in organised sport from 65% in 2000 to 70% in 2006. The participation rates of girls remained similar over the same period (around 58%).

Overall, there was minimal change in the participation in organised cultural activities among South Australian children (from 28% in 2000 to 27% in 2006). South Australian children involved in dancing increased from 6% in 2000 to 9% in 2006. Participation in singing decreased over the same period from 10% to 6%.

There was also a noticeable change in children playing computer games which decreased by 4 percentage points from 71% in 2000 to 67% in 2006. In contrast, children who went bike riding increased in 2006 to 64% from 62% in 2000.

There was a significant increase in the percentage of South Australian children accessing the Internet between 2000 and 2003 (from 49% in 2000 to 66% in 2003). In 2006, 65% of children accessed the Internet. Conversely, the percentage of children using a computer but not accessing the Internet decreased from 50% in 2000 to 30% in 2003 and 2006.

## PARTICIPATION IN 2006

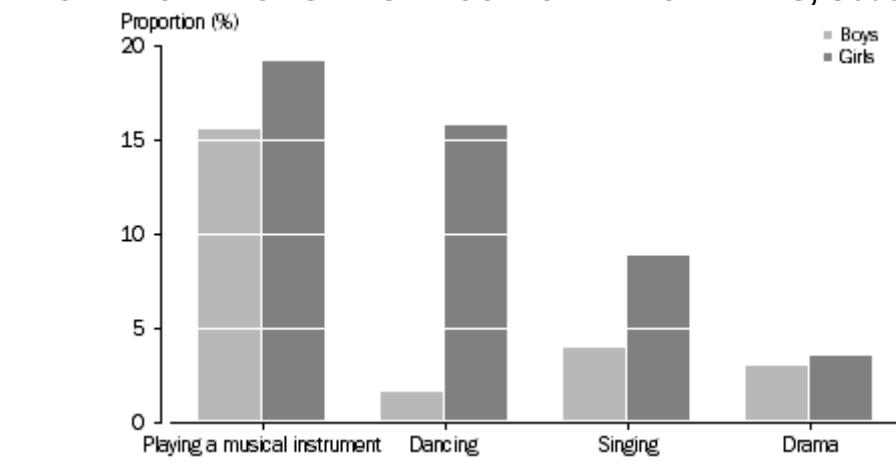
### Cultural activities

The survey collected data on children's involvement in four organised cultural activities: playing a musical instrument, dancing, singing and drama. In 2006, 27% (52,700) of South Australians aged 5 to 14 years were involved in organised cultural activities, with 35% (32,800) of girls and 20% (19,900) of boys reporting participation in these activities. Not only were more girls involved in organised cultural activities overall, there was not one organised cultural activity where more boys were involved than girls.

Playing a musical instrument was the most popular cultural activity for South Australian children (17%) with 19% of girls and 16% of boys involved in this activity. Dancing (having lessons or giving a dance performance) was eight times more common for girls (16%) than for boys (2%). Across the state, 9% of children were involved in dancing.

More than double the number of girls (8,300 or 9%) were involved in singing when compared to boys (3,900 or 4%) in South Australia. Statewide, 6% of children had lessons or gave a singing performance in 2006.

## PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, South Australia



Source: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

Nationally, 33% of children participated in organised cultural activities. South Australian children had the second lowest participation (27%) after the Northern Territory (25%). The discrepancy between the total Australian and South Australian participation was particularly noticeable for girls; nationally, 44% of girls participated in organised cultural activities compared to 35% for South Australian girls which was equal lowest with the Northern Territory. Overall, the proportion of Australian girls involved in cultural activities was double the proportion of boys, 44% and 22% respectively.

Musical instruments were played outside school hours by 20% of Australian children, 12% had dance lessons or gave a dance performance and 6% had singing lessons or gave a singing performance. In all states and territories, the activity with the highest participation of those surveyed was children playing a musical instrument.

### Organised sport

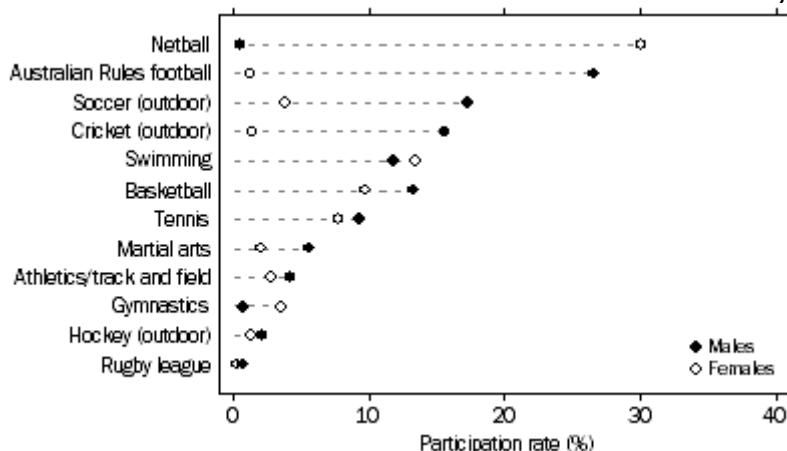
The importance of physical activity in maintaining a healthy weight is well known. The 2004 NSW School Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS, 2004) showed that 26% of boys and 24% of girls in NSW aged approximately 5–16 years were overweight or obese. The National Physical Activities Guidelines for Australians (DoHA, 2004) recommend at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day for young people aged under 18 years. With a decrease in incidental activity, planned activity becomes more important to maintain a healthy weight (AIHW, 2005).

An estimated 123,000 (64%) children aged 5–14 years in South Australia participated in organised sport outside school hours in the 12 months to April 2006. The top five organised sports (in terms of children's participation) were netball (15%), Australian Rules football (14%), swimming (13%), basketball (12%) and outdoor soccer (11%). A greater proportion of boys (70% or 68,900) than girls (58% or 54,100) were involved in organised sports in South Australia.

Australian Rules football was the most popular organised sport participated in by boys in South Australia (27% or 26,100). Other popular sporting activities for boys were outdoor soccer (17%) and outdoor cricket (16%). For South Australian girls, netball was the most popular organised sport (30%) followed by swimming (14%) and basketball (10%).

Although South Australian boys had a higher rate of participation in organised sport than girls, it should be noted that the proportion of South Australian girls (16%) involved in dancing was 8 times that of boys (2%). Dancing may have been substituted by girls for their main physical activity. Previous analysis (footnote 1) reported that if dancing were included in organised sport, the gap in the participation rates in organised sport for boys and girls would be smaller.

### PARTICIPATION RATE OF CHILDREN IN MOST POPULAR SPORTS, South Australia



Source: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

More boys across Australia participated in organised sport compared to girls in the 12 months prior to interview (69% and 58% respectively). Outdoor soccer and Australian Rules football are both in the top three most popular sports for Australian and South Australian boys. However, while similar proportions of boys participate in outdoor soccer in South Australia and Australia, almost twice the proportion of South Australian boys play Australian

Rules football compared with Australian boys. Netball and swimming are both in the top three most popular sports for Australian and South Australian girls. Swimming is participated in similar proportions by South Australian and Australian girls. However, almost twice the proportion of South Australian girls play netball than Australian girls.

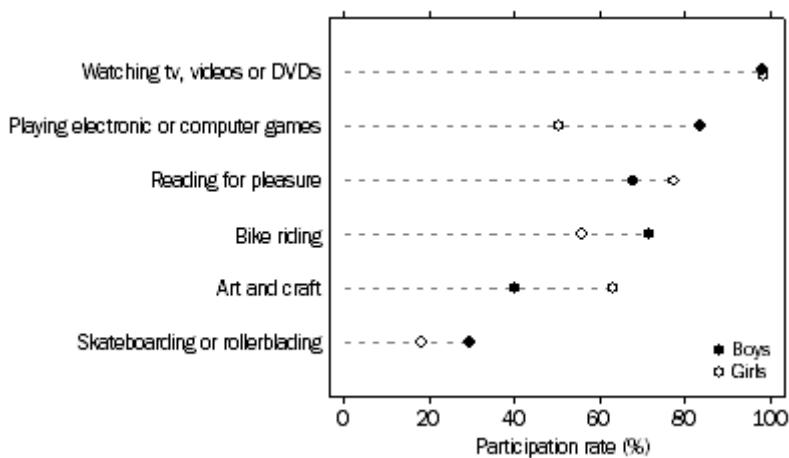
### Other leisure activities

In the two weeks leading up to the survey, the three most popular leisure activities for South Australian children aged 5–14 years were watching TV, videos or DVDs (98%), reading for pleasure (73%) and playing electronic or computer games (67%).

It is interesting to note that South Australian children were more commonly involved in reading for pleasure than playing electronic or computer games. While similar proportions of boys and girls watch TV, videos or DVDs (98% for both), more boys than girls play computer or electronic games than girls (83% compared with 51%) while more girls than boys do art and craft (63% compared with 40%), as well as reading for pleasure (77% compared with 68%).

South Australian children preferred bike riding (64%) to skateboarding or rollerblading (24%). In fact, riding bikes was almost as common as the indoor activities (more common than doing art and craft).

### PARTICIPATION RATE OF CHILDREN IN SELECTED OTHER ACTIVITIES, South Australia (a)



(a) In the 2 weeks prior to interview

Source: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

Watching TV, videos or DVDs was also the most popular leisure activity for Australian children outside school hours (97%). Nationally, a greater proportion of children went bike riding (68%) than playing an electronic or computer game (64%). Around a quarter (24%) of children nationwide went skateboarding or rollerblading. Almost three quarters (74%) of Australian children read for pleasure and almost half (49%) were involved in art and craft outside school hours.

Similar proportions of children watch TV, videos or DVDs outside school hours across the other states and territories (ranging from 95% – 98%). South Australia reported a lower proportion (64%) of children who went bike riding outside school hours compared to all other states and territories.

### Attendance at cultural venues

Public libraries were the most common cultural venue attended, with more than half of children in South Australia and Australia going to a library at least once in the previous 12

months. More girls than boys attended a performing arts event in South Australia and Australia. More South Australian boys than girls went to the museum/art gallery in the 12 months prior to interview.

### ATTENDANCE RATE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES OR EVENTS, Australia and South Australia

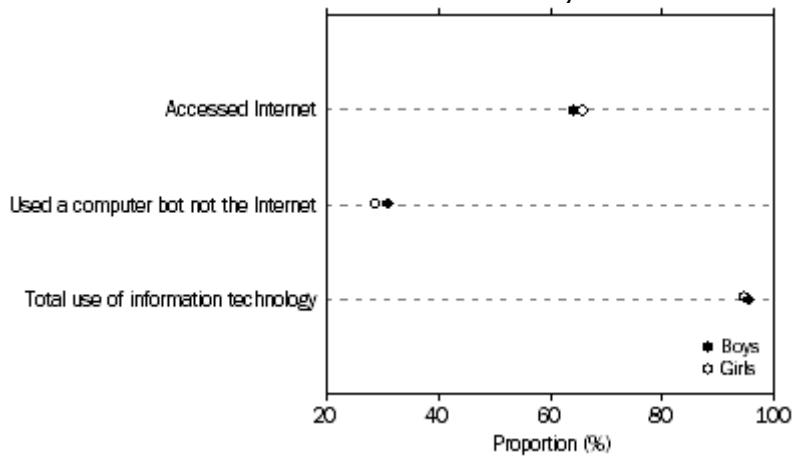
	Public Library	Museum / Art Gallery	Performing Arts Event
<i>Attendance Rate (%)</i>			
<b>South Australia</b>			
Boys	58	45	32
Girls	62	38	41
Children	60	41	36
<b>Australia</b>			
Boys	53	38	26
Girls	57	36	35
Children	55	37	30

Source: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

### Use of information technology

In South Australia, there were 65% of children accessing the Internet and 30% using a computer but not accessing the Internet in 2006. Around 5% of children did not access information technology over this period. This is around 182,600 children aged 5–14 years using information technology in the 12 months prior to interview. Similar proportions of South Australian boys and girls accessed the Internet (64% and 66% respectively) and used a computer not accessing the Internet (31% and 29% respectively).

### USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, South Australia



Source: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

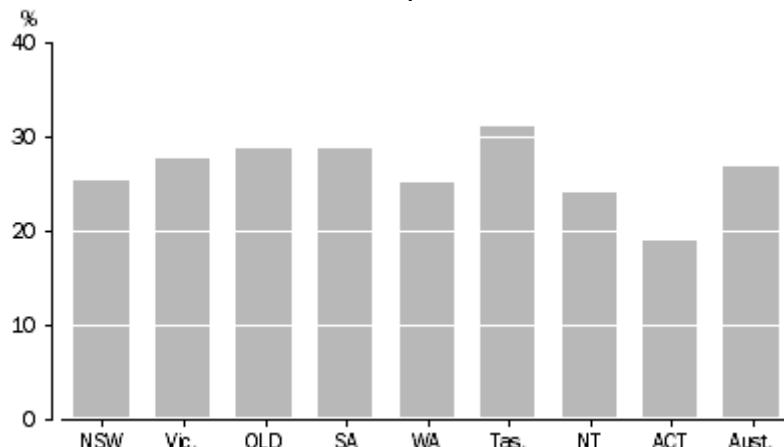
Nationally, 65% of children accessed the Internet and 27% used a computer but not the Internet resulting in an estimated 2.5 million Australian children aged 5–14 years using information technology in the 12 months leading to interview. Equal proportions of boys and girls nationally accessed the Internet (both 65%) and similar proportions used the computer but not the Internet (27% and 28% respectively).

### NON PARTICIPANTS

Non participation was recorded for organised cultural and sporting activities outside school hours. In the 12 months prior to interview, there were 55,200 (29%) South Australian children aged 5–14 years who did not participate in any of the selected organised cultural or sporting activities. More girls (32%) than boys (26%) did not report any participation.

Nationally, the level of non participation was 27% with similar proportions of boys (26%) and girls (27%) who did not participate in any of the selected organised cultural or sporting activities.

#### **NON PARTICIPATION RATE OF CHILDREN, SELECTED ORGANISED CULTURAL OR SPORTING ACTIVITIES, States and Territories**



Source: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

Previous analyses (footnote 1) have identified characteristics of children who are likely to be non-participants in sports. The age and sex of a child have a moderate relationship with sports participation, with girls and children in the 5–7 year and 12–14 year age groups less likely to participate. Sedentary screen based activities such as watching television and videos, using computers or the Internet and playing computer games were also shown to have different and seemingly contradictory relationships with sport participation. Children who used a computer or the Internet as well those who played computer games were more likely to participate in organised sport, while those watching television and videos for very long hours (40 hours or more in a fortnight) had a reduced likelihood of participating in sporting activities. Certain socio-demographic characteristics are also likely to be related with non participation. These include:

- Children in families with unemployed parents or in a single parent family with an unemployed parent;
- Children born overseas or having a parent born in an overseas non-English speaking country;
- Children from households with a lower overall socioeconomic status.

There is growing concern on the increasing levels of childhood obesity in Australia. Participation in organised activities like sports is a key element in addressing concerns over physical inactivity and obesity in the child population. The socio-demographic characteristics identified could be used to inform policy and program development in increasing children's participation in physical activity.

#### **References:**

NSW School Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS) 2004

National Physical Activity Guidelines for Australians (DoHA 2004)

A picture of Australia's Children (AIHW, 2005)

Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0).

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